

MEMORANDUM FOR: Chief Information Officers

FROM: Thomas N. Pyke, Jr.
Acting Chief Information Officer

SUBJECT: Department of Commerce Electronic and Information
Technology Accessibility Policy

The attached policy addresses the information technology aspects of Section 508 of the Rehabilitation Act as revised in 1998. This policy has been developed and concurred in by the Section 508 Coordinators from your respective organizations. The electronic and information technology standards implementing Section 508 become effective June 21, 2001.

Please note that the policy strongly suggests that each operating unit develop an Assessment Plan, addressing existing Web pages and software applications. While it is not required, an Assessment Plan would provide an organized approach to identifying and dealing with the software assets of our organizations. Should you elect to prepare an Assessment Plan, this will satisfy your obligation to certify Web accessibility according to Standard 6 developed by the Web Resources Group.

This policy will be made part of the Department of Commerce Information Technology Management Handbook which will be available from the DOC Web site. The electronic copy that is being sent to you today contains references to bookmarks and link information that will be transparent once the policy is on the Web.

Attachment

cc: Mike. Sade, OAM
Jim Taylor, OFM
Commerce 508 Coordinators